

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A shim, comprising:

~~a wave-shaped body with a first portion and a second portion; and~~
~~formed with a slot dividing [[a]] the first portion of said body at an end thereof into~~
~~a pair of wave-shaped extending arms, wherein a trough and a peak of the wave-~~
~~shaped extending arms is parallel to a junction between the first portion and the second~~
~~portion.~~

Claim 2 (original): The shim according to in claim 1, which further comprises a tab attached to said body at a side opposite said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 3 (original): The shim according to claim 2, wherein said tab is attached to said body via an area of reduced body material at a junction point between said tab and said body.

Claim 4 (original): The shim according to claim 2, wherein said tab has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, said tab defining at least one groove extending from said edge of said tab in a direction toward a center region of said tab, and said groove being a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 5 (original): The shim according to claim 2, wherein said tab has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said tab defines at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 6 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein at least one area of reduced body material exists at corresponding locations along each of said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 7 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein said body is comprised of a single piece of material.

Claim 8 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extending arms has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, said at least one extending arm having at least one groove formed therein extending from said edge of said extending arm in a direction toward a center region of said extending arm, and said groove comprising a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 9 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extending arms has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said extending arm is formed with at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A shim assembly comprising a plurality of ~~wave-shaped bodies, each with a first portion and a second portion and~~ formed with a slot dividing ~~[[a]] the first portion of each of said bodies at an end thereof into a pair~~ pairs of wave-shaped extending arms, ~~wherein a trough and a peak of the wave-shaped extending arms is parallel to a junction between the first portion and the second portion and~~ with each of said wave-shaped bodies ~~are being~~ removably attached to at least one other one of said wave-shaped body.

Claim 11 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, which further comprises a tab attached to each of said bodies at a side opposite said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 12 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 11, wherein said tab is attached to said body via an area of reduced body material on each said body at a junction point between each said tab and each said body.

Claim 13 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 11, wherein each of said tabs has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, with each said tab defining at least one groove extending from said edge of said tab in a direction toward a center region of said tab, and said groove being a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 14 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 11, wherein each of said tabs has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said tab defines at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 15 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, wherein at least one area of reduced body material exists at corresponding locations along each of said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 16 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said extending arms of each body has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, with said extending arm defining at least one groove extending from said edge of said extending arm in a direction toward a center region of said extending arm, and said groove comprising a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 17 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said extending arms of each body has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said extending arm defines at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for shimming an element, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into a gap between, and defined by, two elements, the shim including:

a ~~wave-shaped~~ body with a first portion and a second portion; and
~~formed with~~ a slot dividing ~~[[a]]~~ the first portion of the body ~~at an end~~
thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms, wherein a trough and a peak
of the wave-shaped extending arms is parallel to a junction between the first
portion and the second portion.

Claim 19 (original): The method according to claim 18, which further comprises:

fully inserting the shim between the two elements by utilizing a tab attached to the shim; and

subsequently separating the tab from the shim.

Claim 20 (original): The method according to claim 18, which further comprises removing a portion of the wave-shaped extending arms that extend from the gap between the two elements after the shim has been inserted.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims ~~shim~~ including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms, and a tab attached to the body at a side opposite the wave-shaped extending arms, the tab having an edge, a first surface perpendicular to the edge, and a second surface opposite the first surface, the tab defining at least one groove extending from the edge of the tab in a direction toward a center region of the tab, and the groove comprising a complete void of material from the first surface to the second surface;

connecting a guide-line from the groove in ~~the first~~ a shim in a first of the at least

two different gaps to the a corresponding groove in the a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps ~~one other shim~~; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims ~~shim~~ including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms, and a tab attached to the body at a side opposite the wave-shaped extending arms, with the tab having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and the tab defining at least one through-hole running from the first surface to the second surface;

threading a guide-line through the hole in the tab of the a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps ~~first shim~~ to the a corresponding hole in the tab of a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps ~~one other shim~~; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims ~~shim~~ including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms having an edge, a first surface perpendicular to the edge, and a second surface opposite the first surface, with at least one of the extending arms having at least one groove formed therein extending from the edge of the extending arm in a direction toward a center region of the extending arm, and the groove comprising a complete void of material from the first surface to the second surface;

connecting a guide-line from the groove in the at least one extending arm of the first a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps to a the corresponding groove in

the at least one extending arm of a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps
~~one other shim~~; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims ~~shim~~ including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and at least one of the extending arms defining at least one through-hole running from the first surface to the second surface;

threading a guide-line through the hole in the at least one extending arm of ~~the first~~ a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps to ~~a the~~ corresponding hole in the extending arm of a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps ~~one other shim~~; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.